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Talk of Trump 2024 run builds as legal pressure intensifies

By JILL COLVIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was calling into yet another friendly radio show when he was asked, as he often is, whether he's planning a comeback bid for the White House. "We need you," conservative commentator Dan Bongino told the former president.

"Well, I'll tell you what," Trump responded. "We are going to make you very happy, and we're going to do what's right."

It was a noncommittal answer typical of a former president who spent decades toying with presidential runs. But multiple people who have spoken with Trump and his team in recent weeks say such remarks shouldn't be viewed as idle chatter. Instead, they sense a shift, with Trump increasingly acting and talking like he plans to mount a run as he embarks on a more public phase of his post-presidency, beginning with a speech on Saturday in North Carolina.

The interest in another run, at least for now, comes as Trump has been consumed



In this Feb. 28, 2021, photo, former President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

by efforts to undo last year's election, advancing baseless falsehoods that it was

stolen and obsessing over recounts and audits that he is convinced could

overturn the results, even though numerous recounts have validated his loss. He's

also facing the most serious legal threat of his career.

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Michael Flynn, former national security adviser to former President Donald Trump, signs a MAGA hat as he greets attendees at the end of a campaign event where he endorsed New York City mayoral candidate Fernando Mateo on Thursday, June 3, 2021, in Staten Island, N.Y.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

New York prosecutors have convened a special grand jury to consider evidence in their criminal investigation into his business dealings — seen by many as a sign that Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. is moving toward seeking charges in the two-year, wide-ranging investigation that has included scrutiny of hush money payments, property valuations and employee compensation. Trump has slammed the probe as "purely political," and those around him insist he isn't concerned about potential legal exposure even as they suggest his political posture is evolving. "I have definitely picked up a shift that there's more of an intentionality to be leaning on the side of it's going to happen than it's not," said Matt Schlapp, chair of the American Conservative Union, who is close to the former president. "I think it's a very real possibility." Trump would face daunting headwinds in addition to his legal vulnerabilities. He would run with the legacy of being the only American

president to be impeached twice. A campaign would almost certainly revive memories of the deadly insurrection he helped spark at the U.S. Capitol earlier this year, potentially dragging down other Republicans who have sought to move past the violence. Beyond that, Trump would be 78 years old on Inauguration Day in 2025 — the same age as Democrat Joe Biden on his own Inauguration Day this year — and multiple Republicans are already making moves for runs of their own. Trump's former vice president, Mike Pence, is slated to visit the early voting state of New Hampshire on Thursday. Trump has long dangled the prospect of presidential campaigns to gin up media attention and stay part of the conversation. And many had initially brushed off Trump's talk of another run as a tool to maintain relevance and his status as a GOP kingmaker. But there are tentative signs that he plans to follow through in more substantive ways to test his political strength, including by holding ral-

lies this summer. His team is eyeing events in Ohio, Florida, Alabama and Georgia to bolster midterm candidates and energize voters. Allies say Trump misses the office and is eager to return to the action — especially as he sees other potential candidates making moves. He has also felt emboldened by some recent developments, including the ouster of one of his chief critics, Republican Rep. Liz Cheney, from her House leadership position. And some see the presidency as offering potentially useful legal shelter as probes into him and his family business intensify. "There's a continued, enduring interest and folks encouraging him to run in 2024, but he's in no rush to make a decision. And he'll do that at the appropriate time," said Trump spokesperson Jason Miller. There is doubt, however, among some in Trump's orbit that he will move forward unless he sees a clear path to victory, for fear of being stained by another loss. For now, Trump remains obsessed with the 2020

election. One longtime ally said one reason Trump has not said he's running outright is because he has refused to acknowledge the election is over. The person said he's now going a step further by giving credence to a bizarre conspiracy theory that he could somehow be reinstated into the presidency in August. There's no constitutional or legal mechanism for Trump to return to the presidency absent winning another election in 2024. Trump's argument that the last election was tainted has been roundly rejected by federal and state officials, including his own attorney general and Republican election leaders. Judges, including those appointed by Trump, also dismissed his claims. The person who described his thinking, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Florida Sen. Rick Scott, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, told The Associated Press on Thursday that he had not discussed the "August conspiracy"

with Trump in their recent conversations. "Joe Biden is the duly elected president of the United States. We follow the Constitution in this country," he said. "Joe Biden is the president of the United States. We went through the electoral votes, we went through that whole process, and Joe Biden is the president." As Trump advances such baseless conspiracy theories, Republican state legislators are pushing what experts say is an unprecedented number of bills aimed at restricting access to the ballot box that could affect future elections. While Republicans say the goal is to prevent voter fraud, Democrats contend the measures are aimed at undermining minority voting rights. Trump remains a commanding force in the Republican Party, despite his loss. A recent Quinnipiac University national poll found that 66% of Republicans would like to see him run for reelection, though the same number of Americans overall said they would prefer he didn't — and there is no evidence that he has grown any more popular since losing by more than 7 million votes last November. Supporters in early-voting states are anticipating another Trump run, even as a long list of other would-be contenders, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, have been making visits. "He's definitely laying the groundwork, keeping his powder dry for a run," Josh Whitehouse, a former member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives who worked for Trump's campaign and administration, said of the former president. "I'd expect nothing less, knowing who he is and having worked for him for so long." While voters will certainly hear out other candidates, he said that, at the end of the day, support will coalesce around Trump if he decides to run. "The energy's still there," Whitehouse said. "You can't replicate it." □

Federal agency: Nevada flower near mine should be protected

By **SCOTT SONNER**

RENO, Nev. (AP) — An extremely rare wildflower that grows only in Nevada's high desert where an Australian mining company wants to dig for lithium should be protected under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Thursday.

The agency outlined its intention to propose listing Tiehm's buckwheat as a threatened or endangered species as part of its belated, 12-month review of a listing petition conservationists filed in 2019. A federal judge said last month the finding was six months overdue and ordered the agency to render a decision within weeks.

The conclusion announced on Thursday that federal protection is warranted could jeopardize Ioneer Ltd.'s plans to build the mine halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

It also ups the ante in an early test of the Biden administration's ability to make good on promises to protect public lands and their native species while at the same time pursuing an ambitious clean energy agenda that includes bolstering production of lithi-



This photo provided by Patrick Donnelly and the Center for Biological Diversity, shows Tiehm's buckwheat, a rare wildflower, in the Nevada desert on May 29, 2021. T

Associated Press

um needed for electric car batteries.

Environmentalists say the delicate, 6-inch (15-centimeter) tall wildflower with yellow blooms is on the brink of extinction with fewer than 30,000 individual plants remaining.

Ioneer acknowledges Tiehm's buckwheat hasn't been documented anywhere else in the world but

insists it can co-exist with the mine.

Nevertheless, the looming listing presents the biggest regulatory hurdle to date for what would be only the second large-scale lithium mine operating in the United States.

Under the court order, the service now has until Sept. 30 to submit a formal rule proposing protection of

the plant as a threatened or endangered species. A 60-day public comment period will follow.

The Center for Biological Diversity first petitioned for federal listing in October 2019 and weeks later filed suit against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to block construction of the mine at Rhyolite Ridge west of Tonopah in the Sil-

ver Peak Range about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of the California line and 200 miles (322 km) southeast of Reno — where Tesla Motors' largest lithium battery factory is located.

"Tiehm's buckwheat shouldn't be wiped off the face of the earth by an open-pit mine," Patrick Donnelly, the center's Nevada director, said Thursday. "The service stepping in to save the plant from extinction is the right call." Ioneer Managing Director Bernard Rowe said Thursday they expected the warranted finding and share the Fish and Wildlife Service's "commitment to protect and preserve Tiehm's buckwheat in its habitat."

"This process will provide greater certainty around our schedule and diminishes the prospect of future litigation," he said. "We remain confident that the science strongly supports the coexistence of our vital lithium operation and Tiehm's buckwheat."

The tiny population of Tiehm's buckwheat is found on 21 acres (8 hectares) spread across 3 square miles (7.8 square kilometers) at the mine site. □

FDA warns doctors to stop using heart pump tied to deaths

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health regulators warned surgeons Thursday to stop implanting a heart pump made by Medtronic due to power failures recently tied to cases of stroke and more than a dozen deaths.

Medtronic said earlier in the day it would stop selling its Heartware assist device, which is intended to boost blood circulation in patients with heart failure. Recent company data showed the device can unexpectedly stop working and sometimes fail to restart, the Food and Drug Administration said. The company said it hasn't been able to pinpoint the root cause in every case. Surgeons can use implants

from other manufacturers, the FDA said in a memo to physicians.

About 4,000 people worldwide currently have the Medtronic device, roughly half of them in the U.S. For those patients, the agency said U.S. doctors should contact the company for the latest guidance on managing the device, which includes managing blood pressure.

The FDA said Medtronic halted sales after reviewing 100 reports of power failures with the device, which led to 14 patient deaths and 13 patients having it removed. The company previously issued recalls on some Heartware devices and components used when implanting it. In December, the company

warned about power failures or delayed restarts with three lots.

The company said patients should not automatically have the device removed. Taking out recalled heart implants has to be carefully weighed against the potential risks of surgery. Medtronic said in a statement physicians should decide "on a case-by-case basis, considering the patients clinical condition and surgical risks." The company said it is preparing a guide for managing patients "who may require support for many years."

The Heartware device was used for heart failure patients awaiting transplant or as a permanent implant for those who weren't healthy enough



In this Aug. 29, 2019 file photo, the Medtronic logo is reflected in a lake at the company's offices in Fridley, Minn.

Associated Press

for that procedure. The device helps strengthen one of the heart's lower chambers needed for adequate blood circulation. Medtronic is one of the

world's largest medical device and equipment makers, selling thousands of implants used to treat heart, neurological and joint conditions. □

Hearing set to discuss unconditional release for Hinckley

By **BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

A court hearing has been set for Aug. 30 regarding whether the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan can live without restrictions in the home he shares with his mother and brother in a gated community in Virginia.

U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman set the late summer date during a teleconference Thursday that included John Hinckley Jr.'s attorney and a federal prosecutor.

Barry Levine, Hinckley's lawyer, has been arguing for Hinckley's unconditional release and points to a recent risk assessment that says Hinckley is stable and unlikely to reoffend.

The exact details of what unconditional release would mean for Hinckley were not discussed during Thursday's teleconference. But the U.S. government opposes unconditional release, according to a brief filed with the court in early



In this Nov. 18, 2003, file photo, John Hinckley Jr. arrives at U.S. District Court in Washington.

Associated Press

May. The government is also having its own expert examine Hinckley to determine "whether or not he would pose a danger to himself or others."

Hinckley, 66, left a Washington psychiatric hospital in 2016 and has been living under increasingly fewer restrictions in a house that sits along a golf course in Williamsburg.

For instance, the judge ruled in October that Hinck-

ley can publicly display his writings, artwork and music under his own name. Hinckley also is allowed to move out of his mother's house and live within 75 miles of Williamsburg, if doctors approve.

But several conditions remain in place. For instance, Hinckley cannot possess a gun or contact Jodie Foster, the actress he was trying to impress when he shot and wounded Reagan in

1981.

Hinckley also cannot knowingly travel to areas where there is someone who is protected by the U.S. Secret Service.

Hinckley was 25 when he shot the 40th U.S. president outside a Washington hotel. The shooting also paralyzed press secretary James Brady and injured two others.

Hinckley was suffering from acute psychosis and was obsessed with Foster. When jurors found him not guilty by reason of insanity, they said he needed treatment, not a lifetime in confinement.

Last summer, a new risk assessment was conducted and found Hinckley to be at low risk for another psychotic episode. It also suggested "a low likelihood that he will reoffend with a violent crime over the short and long term."

The assessment also quotes mental health professionals who indicated support for his unconditional release. Hinckley is quoted as say-

ing that it would free him from driving to Washington for in-person meetings with the city's Department of Behavioral Health.

Hinckley said he would have more free time if he no longer has to check in by telephone and complete daily activity logs.

"(N)ot a whole lot would change," Hinckley is quoted as saying.

He plans to continue to live in the Williamsburg area, attend group therapy sessions and take his current psychiatric medications, the assessment stated.

Hinckley's attorneys wrote in an April court filing that his mother is in declining health. And they hoped an unconditional release order "might be entered while Mrs. Hinckley can appreciate it."

Levine, Hinckley's attorney, raised the issue again during Thursday's call with the judge.

"Mr. Hinckley's mother is in something of a rapid decline," Levine told the judge. □

Iowa boy missing, one week after vanishing from trailer park



Volunteers gather to search for Xavier Harrelson, a 10-year-old missing boy, at Montezuma High School in Montezuma, Iowa on Sunday, May 30, 2021.

Associated Press

By **RYAN J. FOLEY**

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A boy who vanished from a rural Iowa trailer park days before his 11th birthday is still missing a week later, as state and federal investigators continued Thursday to look into what happened to him.

Detectives are considering several possibilities in the

disappearance of Xavier Harrelson, including that he was abducted, that he suffered some kind of accident or that he ran away, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation assistant director Mitch Mortvedt said.

"Every moment that goes by, it's obviously more and more suspicious, and concerning," he said. "It's so, so

sad. It's heart-wrenching." Police are confident that they have searched and cleared the areas where the boy could have gone on his own, including a large nearby county park with woods and a lake, Mortvedt said. They have asked homeowners or businesses with surveillance footage from the day he disappeared to come forward, along with any tips or information that might be of assistance.

The FBI said earlier this week that it has joined the investigation and offered "every resource available" to state and county departments leading the case.

Harrelson lived with his mother in the Spruce Village trailer park in Montezuma, Iowa, a town of 1,300 people that is 70 miles east of Des Moines. He disappeared after leaving home around 11 a.m. on May 27. A friend's mother later called authorities to

report the boy missing after speaking with Xavier's worried mother.

The disappearance came during closing arguments of a murder trial of the farmhand charged with killing 20-year-old Mollie Tibbetts, who vanished about 15 miles away in the same county in 2018 while out for a run in her hometown of Brooklyn.

Several Poweshiek County officers who were at the trial left before last week's guilty verdict to go look for Xavier, Mortvedt said, and have since employed similar search techniques as they did in searching for Tibbetts. In that case, police used surveillance video to develop a suspect, who eventually showed investigators where to find Tibbetts' body in a cornfield a month after her disappearance.

Among those helping blanket the area with missing person buttons and flyers

featuring Xavier's face has been Mollie's Movement, an organization that does community service in Tibbetts' name and pledged to "move mountains" to find him.

Xavior had recently completed the school year at the public school in Montezuma and was off for summer break.

His 11th birthday arrived on Sunday, as hundreds of volunteers and law enforcement officials fanned out to search the nearby Diamond Lake County Park and other areas for any sign of him. Hundreds attended a vigil for him outside the county courthouse Monday, praying for his safe return.

Mortvedt said that Xavior's family, including his mother and his father who lives in another Iowa city, have been cooperative. He said police do not have any suspects or persons of interest. □

Netanyahu foes push for quick vote to end his 12-year rule

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opponents pushed Thursday for a quick parliament vote to formally end his lengthy rule, hoping to head off any last-minute attempts to derail their newly announced coalition government.

The latest political maneuvering began just hours after opposition leader Yair Lapid and his main coalition partner, Naftali Bennett, declared they had reached a deal to form a new government and muster a majority in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament.

The coalition consists of eight parties from across the political spectrum with little in common except the shared goal of toppling Netanyahu after a record-setting 12 years in power. The alliance includes hardliners previously allied with Netanyahu, as well as center-left parties and even an Arab faction — a first in Israeli politics.

Netanyahu lashed out at his foes on Thursday, signaling that he will continue to exert pressure on former



Yamina party leader Naftali Bennett, left, smiles as he speaks to Yesh Atid party leader Yair Lapid during a special session of the Knesset, whereby Israeli lawmakers elect a new president, at the plenum in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

Associated Press

allies who joined the coalition. "All members of Knesset who were elected with right-wing votes need to oppose this dangerous leftist government," he wrote on Twitter.

The drama riveted Israelis at a time when tumult has not been in short supply: four inconclusive elections

in two years followed by an 11-day war in the Gaza Strip last month that was accompanied by mob violence between Jews and Arabs in cities across the country. The country also is emerging from the coronavirus crisis that caused deep economic damage and exposed tensions be-

tween the secular majority and the ultra-Orthodox minority.

Yet the political debate has focused squarely on Netanyahu, who is facing corruption charges — and whether he should stay or go.

"We never had a coalition like this," said Hillel Bar Sa-

deh at a coffee shop in Jerusalem. "We like to have a new spirit, we like to have some unity."

The owner of the coffee shop, Yosi Zarifi, said he trusts that Netanyahu will return to power — and distrusts the coalition.

"Everybody is clear that this trick will not last, there won't be any glue (to keep it together) here," he said.

The anti-Netanyahu bloc announced the coalition deal just before a deadline at midnight Wednesday. The agreement triggered a complex process that is likely to stretch over the next week.

The coalition has a razor-thin majority of 61 votes in parliament. Now the question is whether the group's votes will hold together in order to name a new parliament speaker, who would then preside over a vote required to confirm the new government.

If the group can't manage that, the current speaker, who is a Netanyahu ally, could use his position to delay the vote and give Netanyahu more time to sabotage the coalition. □

EU plans digital ID wallet for bloc's post-pandemic life

By **KELVIN CHAN**

LONDON (AP) — The European Union unveiled plans Thursday for a digital ID wallet that residents could use to access services across the 27-nation bloc, part of a post-pandemic recovery strategy that involves accelerating the shift to an online world.

The European Digital Identity Wallet proposed by the EU's executive commission is a smartphone app that would let users store electronic forms of identification and other official documents, such as driver's licenses, prescriptions and school diplomas.

The bloc's 450 million residents would be able to use the wallet to access public or private services both online and offline while maintaining control of their per-

sonal data.

Officials envision the wallet allowing a customer renting a car at an airport, for example, to complete the necessary ID checks and documents digitally and thereby skip the usual wait at an agency counter. Nightclub-goers could show the app to security guards at the door to prove their ages.

Other potential uses include opening bank accounts, signing apartment leases and enrolling in universities outside an individual's home country.

The digital wallet "will enable us to do in any member state as we do at home without any extra cost and fewer hurdles," Margrethe Vestager, the European Commission's executive vice president for digital,

said. "And do this in a way that is secure and transparent."

All EU residents would be entitled to an e-wallet, but they won't be mandatory, according to the EU Commission.

But dominant online platforms would be required to accept the wallet, a provision that aligns with the commission's goal of reigning in big tech companies and their control of personal data.

Vestager said people would be able to use their EU digital wallets to access Google or Facebook instead of their "platform-specific" accounts.

"Because of that, you can decide how much data you want to share - only enough to identify yourself," the commissioner said from



European Commissioner for Europe fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager, left, and European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton participate in a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Associated Press

Brussels during a virtual media briefing.

Digital is a key part of the EU's post-COVID 19 recovery package: A 750 billion-euro (\$915 billion) stimulus fund includes benchmarks for member countries to spend one-fifth of the money on digital projects such as digitizing public administration.

Some EU countries already have their own national digital ID systems, and the wallet Brussels is developing would work with them.

The commission plans to discuss the wallet with the EU's 27 member countries and aims to get them to agree on technical details by fall 2022 so pilot projects can begin. □

Danish lawmakers approve plan to locate asylum center abroad

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Danish lawmakers voted Thursday in favor of Denmark establishing a refugee reception center in a third country that is likely to be in Africa, a move that could be a first step toward moving the country's asylum screening process outside of Europe.

Legislation approved on a 70-24 vote with no abstentions and 85 lawmakers absent authorizes the Danish government to, when a deal is in place, transfer asylum-seekers "to the third country in question for the purpose of substantive processing of asylum applications and any subsequent protection in compliance with Denmark's international obligations."

The United Nations high commissioner for refugees, the European Union and several international organizations have criticized the plan, saying it would undermine international cooperation and lacks details on how human rights would be protected. Immigration Minister Mattias Tesfaye has said the Danish government needed a legal framework for a new asylum system before details could be presented.



In this file photo dated Monday, May 24, 2021, Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen arrives for an EU summit in Brussels.

Associated Press

The center-right opposition has been backing the Social Democratic minority government and voted in favor of the law approved Thursday.

"This is insane, this is absurd," Michala C. Bendixen, a spokesperson for advocacy and legal aid organization Refugees Welcome, told The Associated Press. "What it's all about is that Denmark wants to get rid of refugees. The plan is to scare people away from

seeking asylum in Denmark."

The European Union's executive commission expressed concern about the vote and its implications, saying that any move to outsource asylum claims is not compatible with the laws of the 27-nation bloc. Denmark is an EU member. "External processing of asylum claims raises fundamental questions about both the access to asylum procedures and effective

access to protection. It is not possible under existing EU rules," European Commission spokesperson Adalbert Jahnz said.

He said such an approach was not part of the commission's proposals for reforming the EU's asylum system, which was overwhelmed by the arrival into Europe of more than 1 million people in 2015, many of them from Syria.

The Social Democrats have for a few years floated the

idea of basing a refugee center abroad. In January, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen reiterated an election campaign vision of having "zero asylum-seekers."

The Social Democrats argue their approach would prevent people from attempting the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe and undermine migrant traffickers who exploit desperate asylum-seekers. Since 2014, more than 20,000 migrants and refugees have died while trying to cross the sea.

When people realize they will be sent out of Europe, "they will stop going to Denmark, and that will mean that they will stop putting themselves in a dangerous situation on the Mediterranean Sea and they will stop wasting a lot of money paying like they pay to these smugglers," Rasmus Stoklund, a Social Democratic lawmaker and member of Parliament's Immigration and Integration Committee, told The Associated Press.

Bendixen of Refugees Welcome said the government's argument is "nonsense" because asylum-seekers still would have to get to Denmark. □

Major Russian fund to ditch dollar, buy euros, yuan, gold



Finance Minister Anton Siluanov attends a cabinet meeting in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Thursday it will completely remove the U.S. dollar from its rainy day fund, a move intended to

counter American pressure two weeks before a summit of the two countries' leaders.

Finance Minister Anton Siluanov told an economic

forum in St. Petersburg that the National Wealth Fund will turn its dollar-denominated assets into euros, yuan and gold.

He said the shift will take a month, and once it's completed the fund will have 40% of its holdings in euros, 30% in yuan and 20% in gold, while the British pound and Japanese yen each will account for 5%. Siluanov said the fund currently has 35% of its assets in dollars and another 35% in euros.

The fund accumulates oil revenues to increase the country's resilience to market fluctuations and help support major national projects. It held about \$186 billion-worth of total assets

as of last month, part of the nation's gold and hard currency reserves that stand at the equivalent of about \$600 billion overall.

The announcement comes just two weeks before a scheduled summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden. They are set to meet in Geneva on June 16.

Russia long has moved to reduce the dollar's share in its hard currency reserves as it has faced waves of U.S. sanctions amid tensions with Washington and its allies.

Asked about the latest announcement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that many

countries, including Russia, have sought to ease their dependence on the dollar amid growing "concerns about the reliability of the main reserve currency." Speaking on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg forum, Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov said the decision to cut the dollar holdings was linked to "threats of sanctions that we have received from the U.S. leadership."

Russia's ties with the U.S. and its allies have plummeted to the lowest levels since Cold War times after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea, accusations of Russian interference in elections, hacking attacks and other issues. □

Sri Lanka braces for environmental disaster as ship sinks

By **BHARATHA MALLA-WARACHI**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— Authorities in Sri Lanka were trying to head off a potential environmental disaster Thursday as a fire-damaged container ship that had been carrying chemicals was sinking off of the country's main port. The Singapore-flagged MV X-Press Pearl started sinking Wednesday, a day after authorities extinguished a fire that raged on the vessel for 12 days. Efforts to tow the ship into deeper waters away from the port in Colombo failed after the ship's stern became submerged and rested on the seabed. The ship's operators, X-Press Feeders, say the fire destroyed most of the ship's cargo, which included 25 tons of nitric acid and other chemicals. But there are fears that remaining chemicals as well as hundreds of tons of oil from the vessel's fuel tanks could leak into the sea.

Such a disaster could devastate marine life and further pollute the island nation's famed beaches. The disaster has already caused debris — including several tons of plastic pel-



This photo provided by Sri Lankan Air Force shows the sinking MV X-Press Pearl at Kapungoda where it is anchored off Colombo port, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

Associated Press

lets used to make plastic bags — to wash ashore. The government already has banned fishing along about 80 kilometers (50 miles) of coastline.

The ship operator said Thursday that the vessel's stern was resting on the seabed about 21 meters (70 feet) below the surface and the ship's bow was "settling down slowly." It said salvage experts were remaining with the vessel

"to monitor the ship's condition and oil pollution."

The company said its experts were coordinating with Sri Lanka's navy to deal with an oil spill or other pollution.

Sri Lankan navy spokesman Indika de Silva said the navy and coast guard were preparing for a spill with assistance from neighboring India. India has sent three ships to help, including one specifically equipped to

deal with marine pollution. Colombo port's harbor master, Nirmal Silva, said there had been about 300 tons of oil on board and that experts believe it could have burned off in the fire. "But we have to look at the worst-case scenario and we are not saying 100% there is no oil. There is a possibility that there may be some," Silva said. "So far we have not seen any oil spill. We consider we are

lucky."

A ship manifest seen by The Associated Press described the X-Press Pearl as carrying just under 1,500 containers, with 81 of those containers described as carrying "dangerous" goods.

Environmentalist Ajantha Perera said there was the potential for "a terrible environmental disaster" as hazardous goods, chemicals and oil could be released into the water and destroy marine ecological systems. Charitha Pattiaratchi, a professor of oceanography at the University of Western Australia, said as many as 3 billion tiny plastic pellets had already been released into the sea and were washing up on beaches. He said the pellets, known as nurdles, "will persist in the marine environment forever as they are not biodegradable."

The fire erupted on May 20 when the ship was anchored about 9.5 nautical miles (18 kilometers) northwest of Colombo and waiting to enter the port.

The navy believes the blaze was caused by the vessel's chemical cargo which was carrying from the port of Hazira, India. □

Officials confirm 136 students abducted from Nigeria school

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Authorities have confirmed that 136 students were abducted by gunmen in northern Nigeria earlier this week, including some as young as 5 years old, the school's owner said Thursday.

Gunmen on motorcycles targeted Salihu Tanko Islamic School on Sunday, killing one person and abducting three teachers as well, school owner Umar Idris told The Associated Press.

After days of uncertainty of how many students were taken, Niger state government issued a statement Thursday putting the toll at 136 pupils missing.

Idris said the number still could be rise, though, be-

cause school officials have not been able to reach all of the parents to confirm whether their children are back home.

"We have sent out a message asking parents who have not yet reported to the school to do so," Idris said, adding that three teachers also were kidnapped.

Ashiru Adamu Idrisa told reporters his three daughters were among those taken by gunmen, the youngest just 5 years old.

"What I saw was horrifying," he said. "Right in front of my eyes my children were taken out."

Other preschoolers were left behind as they could not keep pace when the gunmen hurriedly moved

those abducted into the forest.

"The 11 children were mainly aged between 3 and 4 and they lacked the stamina to keep pace with the gunmen, so they were abandoned on the way" Idris said, adding that the preschoolers were found hours after the attack.

The school's pupils range in age between 3 and 14, and parents are concerned that some of the youngest kidnapping victims may be unable to survive in the forest.

Earlier this week, parents of the abducted children criticized the government's response to the crisis, and pleaded for the return of their sons and daughters.

"Honestly, I will say that we



Parents of abducted school children of Salihu Tanko Islamic School wait for news on their children in Tegina, Nigeria, Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Associated Press

don't have a government, because even before this incident happened you heard people shouting that they were coming, then when it happened, and you go to the police station, no action is taken," said Rabi Garkuwa, parent of two of the kidnapped children. Gunmen have abducted hundreds of students in northern Nigeria this year,

and the government has been unable to halt the spate of abductions for ransom. As a result, many schools have been forced to close due to the concerns about the kidnapping risk. Earlier this week, 14 students and staff from Greenfield University in Kaduna state were released after spending more than a month in captivity. □

LOCAL



Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food

PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

Oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis with KLM, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Two renowned guests chefs from Europe

Tina: “Our chef is from Peru and at the moment we have two renowned guest chefs! Griet Vanbrabant from Belgium who worked in Michelin star restaurants like El Bulli in Spain which happened to be the world’s best restaurant for many years and Pujol in Mexico. And we have Martijn Liebregts from The Netherlands. He has earned his spurs among others in Amber; one of the best French fine dining restaurant’s Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin- stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Moving back to Amsterdam he joined the team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant “Wilde Zwijnen”, which was awarded the title “The New Dutch Cuisine” by the New York Times. So you see, this is the time to come over and reserve your table.”

Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: twice a week you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo or the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only.



Wednesdays Venezuelan born musician Jose Herrera will show you why his name is established on the island and in Europe. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

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info@papillonaruba.com
or call/WhatsApp + 00297
6995400

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Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm

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Divi Tamarijn guests honored as 'Distinguished visitors'



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple Mr. Nathan & Mrs. Veronica from Philadelphia, USA!

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Tamarijn All-Inclusive Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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Small amounts of sargassum can be beneficial

SANTA CRUZ — Sargassum is a planktonic (free-floating) seaweed found in the tropics. While at sea, sargassum patches are a valuable habitat for many sea creatures. Birds, fish, turtles, and crustaceans use the floating mats for breeding, food, and refuge.

Sargassum is beneficial when it comes ashore in small amounts. It can provide food for shorebirds and crabs, as well as building up the sand to help prevent coastal erosion. Seaweed mixed into the sand provides a healthy environment for beach stabilizing plants like sea vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*) and sea purslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*). Some islands in the Caribbean, including our neighboring islands Curacao and Bonaire, have enclosed bays where the sargassum can accumulate to create a toxic environment. If rotting seaweed remains

in the water it deprives the other organisms in the bay of oxygen and sunlight. Luckily Aruba does not have such bays and the large majority of the sargassum washes up and then is taken away again by changing currents. If you encounter sargassum on our beaches you can check if there are any trapped animals and release them to the sea. You can also help remove plastics by picking it up and disposing of it properly.

About Aruba National Park- Arikok

Surrounding Mt. Arikok near the center of the island is a natural preserve which features some of the oldest Arawak drawings, as well as trails that showcase Aruba's great variety of plants and animals like the divi-divi and kwihi trees, rare and exotic cacti, aloe, tropical flowers, birds and iguanas. There's also an old



Aruban "cunucu" house, "cas ditorta," made of mud and grass. Together with the Coastal Protection Zone, Arikok National Park encompasses 18 percent of the island. There is a great geological variety within the

park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the is-

land are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft). □

Source: Aruba National Park Foundation

Renovation work started at Ayo Rock Formation

SANTA CRUZ — Sargassum is a planktonic (free-floating) seaweed found in the tropics. While at sea, sargassum patches are a valuable habitat for many sea creatures. Birds, fish, turtles, and crustaceans use the floating mats for breeding, food, and refuge.

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Source: Aruba National Park Foundation



Tech calms down, but still strong as the world goes digital

By DAMIAN J. TROISE

Technology company stocks are in rest mode this year, but what may seem like weakness as the economy recovers is really just dormancy.

Digital devices, software and even cybersecurity will be the key areas for steady growth as consumers and businesses become more digital in how they operate, analysts say. The virus pandemic made that digital shift much sharper when people were forced to work, shop and stay entertained at home and that trend is only going to become more ingrained.

"Looking ahead there are a lot of trends that accelerated during the pandemic that have staying power even as the economy reopens," said Kristina Hooper, chief global market strategist at Invesco.

Tech stocks have been quiet most of this year, with a roughly 6% gain, as investors take advantage of growth elsewhere with the economic rebound. It's a sharp contrast to 2020, when the sector surged 42%. And while 2020's sharp growth will likely not be repeated, tech companies



New iPad Pros are displayed at an Apple Store, Friday, May 21, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

and their stocks are poised for long-term growth well past the pandemic.

The pandemic tied more people to mobile devices and other technology for work, shopping and leisure. While some semblance of the pre-pandemic normal is returning, many of the habits formed in 2020 will remain. Remote work will likely become more common for many fields and

companies will have to spend more to ramp up cloud-computing capabilities and cybersecurity.

Many companies had to pivot from in-person meetings to virtual meetings and companies like Zoom Video Communications Inc. were suddenly household names. That tech is likely now a permanent part of work.

"While employees are re-

turning to the office, they're not returning full time and we'll still need significant investments in tech," Hooper said.

Businesses will be forced to speed up their digital transformation plans by at least five years as more companies permanently adopt work-from-home measures, according to a report from research and advisory firm Gartner. Spending on infor-

mation technology in 2021 could jump nearly 5% to \$332.9 billion.

Another key trend brightening the future for tech is the broader adoption of digital living as more people become accustomed to shopping through mobile devices, using digital services for financial transactions and even shifting leisure activities to the digital world. Online shopping just for common, everyday packaged goods exploded through the pandemic, according to NielsenIQ. Consumers spent \$110 billion via online shopping on household goods and other items through 2020, marking a 50% increase from the prior year. The pandemic is seemingly winding down and bringing more people back to stores, but companies expect the online trend, with its ease and time-saving benefits, to remain a strong part of sales going forward.

Amazon.com was probably the best positioned company during the pandemic and it's solidly positioned moving past the virus. Many other companies have had to swiftly beef up their online capabilities. □

China criticizes Western brands' toys, clothes as unsafe

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government has accused H&M, Nike, Zara and other brands of importing unsafe or poor quality children's clothes and other goods, adding to headaches for foreign companies after Beijing attacked them over complaints about possible forced labor in the country's northwest.

A list of "quality and safety unqualified" products from 16 companies including T-shirts, toys and toothbrushes was released by the customs agency to mark International Children's Day this week.

The announcement is a setback for foreign brands that were attacked by state media in March following accusations by governments and human rights groups that Beijing uses forced labor in Xinjiang in

China's northwest.

State TV called for a boycott of H&M over a statement issued a year earlier saying it would no longer use cotton from Xinjiang. Official media publicized criticism of others for expressing concern about possible forced labor.

H&M goods were removed from Chinese e-commerce platforms while app stores dropped apps for that company, Nike and Adidas. Celebrities pulled out of endorsement deals.

Product safety is especially sensitive in China following scandals over tainted, shoddy or counterfeit milk, medicines and other products that have killed and injured consumers.

Some 1 million people from mostly Muslim minority groups have been confined to detention camps

in Xinjiang. Chinese authorities are accused of forced sterilization and destroying mosques.

Chinese officials deny reports of abuses and say the camps are for job training to promote economic development and combat radicalism. Authorities have pressed foreign brands to reject reports of forced labor, saying they should look more closely at Xinjiang.

Foreign brands usually comply with pressure to adopt the ruling Communist Party's position on major issues but human rights also is sensitive with consumers abroad.

The customs announcement made no mention of Xinjiang or criticism of the foreign companies. It cited what it said was potentially hazardous dyes and other chemicals in clothing and



A woman and children wearing masks pass by Nike store in Beijing on Thursday, June 3, 2021. A woman and children wearing masks pass by Nike store in Beijing on Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Associated Press

toys and the failure of shoes and toothbrushes to meet standards for strength and flexibility of materials.

The agency cited T-shirts imported by Nike Inc., children's and baby clothing from Industria de Diseno

Textil SA's Zara brand and children's clothing from H&M Group. It said the goods would be returned or destroyed.

Nike, Zara and H&M didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS** 40 Crest
 1 TV grouch 41 Oven
 6 Titus feature
 Welliver 43 Staggering series
 44 Defeatist's words
 11 Flower girl, often 45 Parliament members
 12 Met work 46 Looks after Brown's Body" poet
 14 Do further editing work
 15 Gallery fill
 16 Token of love
 18 Rage
 19 Smelter supply
 20 Signal of approval
 21 Escapade
 23 A+, for one
 25 Little lie
 27 Long lunch
 28 Alice's cat
 30 Leafy vegetable
 33 Clinic cost
 34 Joplin piece
 36 Boston team, for short
 37 Blow up
 39 Ram's mate

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
 1 Out during trial
 2 Rugged range
 3 Baseball position
 4 Top pitcher
 5 Fashionably dated
 6 Country separators
 7 Phone button letters
 8 Baseball position
 9 Friday finder
 10 Reviled unit
 17 Work unit
 22 Family
 24 Penguin's cousin
 26 OPEC units
 28 "Raging Bull" star
 29 Crone
 31 Cheap
 32 Brings to bear
 33 Wild
 35 "Understand?"
 38 Like some cheeses
 42 Bar rocks

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A X Y D L B A A X R
 is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-4

CRYPTOQUOTE

W U A W U J S R R A D C A B C P J A

U W B O S F C U A M M C U Y S A B

P S Y J A N Y U W N R S B O

M C R C B Y D C B Y . Z A J B

P A A L C B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: CONTROL OVER CHANGE WOULD SEEM TO CONSIST IN MOVING NOT WITH IT, BUT AHEAD OF IT. — MARSHALL MCLUHAN



Gloria Gantes, right, monitors Terry Colli, a resident of John Knox Village, as he participates in a virtual reality study, Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Can virtual reality help seniors? Study hopes to find out

By **TERRY SPENCER**
POMPANO BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Terry Colli and three other residents of the John Knox Village senior community got a trip via computer to the International Space Station in the kickoff to a Stanford University study on whether virtual reality can improve the emotional well-being of older people. Donning 1-pound (470-gram) headsets with video and sound, the four could imagine floating weightless with astronauts and get a 360-degree tour of the station. In other programs, residents can take virtual visits to Paris, Venice, Egypt or elsewhere around the globe; attend a car rally, skydive or go on a hike. "I feel great. It is amazing. It is like you are really there," said Colli, 73, and a former spokesman for the Canadian embassy in Washington. Stanford's Virtual Human Interaction Lab will be working with John Knox's 1,200 residents, who will have ready access to the equipment under the supervision of staff members. The goal is to see whether virtual reality can improve their mood, strengthen their relationships with staff and make them more receptive to technology. Other senior communities in the United States and elsewhere will

soon be added by the California university. Virtual reality works by making what the person sees and hears track with what they are doing. In a VR trip to Paris, for example, a participant might turn to the left and see the Eiffel Tower with a musician playing in the foreground, and then turn right and find two people conversing. If the participant moves toward one, that sound increases while the other diminishes. "There is a fair amount of previously published research by academic labs around the world that shows VR, when administered properly, can help reduce anxiety, improve mood, and reduce pain," said Jeremy Bailenson, the Stanford lab's founding director. "This particular study is focused on how using VR might reduce the residents' feelings of isolation from the outside world — all the more important after the isolation we all faced during the pandemic." During Tuesday's demonstration at the suburban Fort Lauderdale community, Colli, Anne Selby, 77; Mark Levey, 64; and Hugh Root, 92, moved their heads from left to right and up and down as they got individual tours of the space station.

"It really felt like you were traveling — and not alone either. In some of the video, there are people," said Levey, a former federal government worker. Selby, an artist, said that she felt a bit nauseated as she moved through the space station because it was so realistic, but that she was able to cope by taking deep breaths. "Regardless of my age, I was right in the middle of it," she said. Root, a retired insurance salesman, was blunt: "It blows my mind." Chris Brickler, CEO of MyndVR, the Dallas company that provided the equipment, said volunteers will be screened to assure they are mentally suitable for using virtual reality and each attendant has an abort button if the person becomes overwhelmed by the experience. John Knox's residents include people and couples who live alone, in assisted living and with full-time nursing. "As we age, we feel there is a disconnect sometimes that can happen when there is a lack of mobility," Brickler said. "We can't travel as much as we want, we can't connect with nature as much as we want, can't have connections with animals. □"

Amsterdam tests out electric autonomous boats on its canals

By **ALEKSANDAR FURTULA** and **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Electric cars, meet your competition. Electric boats are on the way.

Amsterdam didn't have to look very far when searching for a way to ease traffic on its congested streets. The Dutch capital's canals were used for transport long before cars and trucks powered by polluting internal combustion engines began clogging its narrow roads.

Already steeped in maritime history, the city's more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) of waterways are to start hosting prototypes of futuristic boats — small, fully-autonomous electric vessels — to carry out tasks including transporting passengers and picking up garbage.

The Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are collaborating on the Roboat project that aims to develop new ways of navigating the world's waterways without a human hand at the wheel.

Stephan van Dijk, director of innovation at the Amsterdam institute, said the technology is "very relevant in highly complex port operations, where you have a lot of vessels and a lot of ships and a lot of quays and piers. There you can really improve the safety with au-

tonomous systems, but also make it more efficient and into a 24/7 operations approach."

At a recent demonstration, one 4-meter (13-foot) long electric boat sailed past a full-size replica of the 18th-century three-mast trading ship Amsterdam, providing a snapshot of the city's nautical past and its future. Next, it has to learn to maneuver through traffic in Amsterdam's canals, which are full of private boats and canal cruises for tourists.

The Roboats have orange propellers and four thrusters that are powered by an electric battery. They can go about 4 mph (6 kph) and can run for 12-24 hours, depending on the battery type and cargo load.

They are steered remotely by a computer, which processes data from cameras and sensors that scan the areas around the vessel, detecting stationary and moving objects. The vessels are modular so they can be easily adapted for different purposes, carrying cargo or workers.

Developers say they still need two-to-four years to perfect the self-steering technology.

"It's mostly because we want to be absolutely sure that we can navigate safely in the canals," said me-



An electric boat steers close to a full-size replica of the 18th century three-mast trading ship Amsterdam at the National Maritime Museum, in Amsterdam, Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Associated Press

chatronics engineer Rens Doornbusch. "Right now we have the autonomy in place, but one of the next steps is to make sure that we can actually handle any kind of situation that we might encounter in the canals."

Before the boats can be put to work, their developers also have to navigate legislative hurdles and privacy concerns.

"We are actively working together with the ministries and the legislators to identify what specific legal aspects have to be changed to allow for fully autonomous operation," Van Dijk said.

He says the boats' use of data from its cameras and scanners has been developed "in such a way that we are not identifying any persons that are walking on on the roads. So in that sense, privacy is being

secured."



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'Girl from Ipanema:' Re-imagining a classic for today's Rio

By **DAVID BILLER**

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Chauffeured in a classic Porsche, the Brazilian beauty steps out into 1960s Rio de Janeiro. The pastel pastiche is easy on the eyes, and so is the pin-up girl tracing twirls as a guitar strums the city's hymn: "The Girl from Ipanema."

Then the bass drops, and the viewer is whisked ahead to the present day — and the decidedly B-side of town.

"Let me tell you 'bout a different Rio / The one I'm from, but not the one that you know," Brazil's biggest pop star, Anitta, sings over a trap beat. The music video has her descending, bikini-clad, from a bus to an artificial pool beside Rio's international airport.

It's the latest twist on the placid Bossa Nova song that, more than a half-century after its creation by Antônio Carlos Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes, still isn't played out — and continues to feed foreigners' captivation. The girl from Ipanema's journey — from Rio to the United States and back to Rio again — shows what can change, and also what endures, as culture crosses borders in an age of globalization.

Anitta's "Girl from Rio" retains only the melody from the original track. Her lyrics convey reality: that the city's women have fuller figures than the tall and tan one about whom Frank Sinatra crooned. Its video features a beach barbecue and bleached body hair, plus no shortage of booties and deep kissing, and mostly casts Black stand-ins for the original muse.

The new take is a long way from Rio's golden age of glamour, an era when Brazil was churning out Volkswagen Beetles and on track to its second straight World Cup title.

'IPANEMA' THEN

It was the early 1960s. Rio had just lost its status as the nation's capital, but nobody could steal the picturesque Copacabana and Ipanema beaches that served as backdrop



Helo Pinheiro poses for a portrait in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Associated Press

for the Bossa Nova music movement — and the locale where Jobim and de Moraes, a composer and a poet respectively, often saw their muse walking while they sat by a bar's window.

"There really is a secret — an enchantment," says de Moraes' daughter Georgiana, who sometimes performs "The Girl from Ipanema." She's heard it countless times, she says, yet somehow it never spoils.

Trouble arose when it came time to translate the song to English. Lyricist Norman Gimbel strongly opposed the word "Ipanema," which he thought called to mind Ipana, the now-forgotten toothpaste brand. In comments published in Jobim's biography, "Cancioneiro Jobim," the Brazilian recalled arguing with Gimbel in a Manhattan taxi. Even the cabbie whirled around to take Gimbel's side.

"All I wanted was to pass along the spirit of the girl from Ipanema, that poetic Rio thing. I think we managed a little, but it was an ugly fight," Jobim wrote. "Americans will never understand our 'beach civilization.'"

Translating from a Romance language, whose words end in soft vowels, saps some of the soothing sway, according to Jobim's son Paulinho, a musician.

But the English lyrics tweak the scene, too, said Sérgio Augusto, who wrote "Cancioneiro Jobim" with access to the artist's writings. In Portuguese, a passing girl lifts the spirits of a lonely man admiring the fleeting beauty she brings to the world. In English, a pining man bemoans unrequited love from a girl who won't give him so much as a glance.

"There's a big difference," says Augusto, "between indifference and disdain." And the English lyrics, especially, could be received as unseemly by a modern audience more attuned to unwanted male attention. Brazilian guitarist Toquinho, who played alongside de Moraes for years, in 2019 questioned whether even the original would've been rejected today.

Ruy Castro, who wrote the authoritative history of Bossa Nova, said Gimbel's work was — unfortunately — necessary.

Gimbel was one of many "professional American lyricists who put English lyrics to foreign songs without knowing what they meant, and wound up earning more than the original authors," Castro said in an email.

"But," he added, "that's how the system worked, and it's clear that, without English lyrics, those songs never would have broken

through American provincialism."

RIO TODAY

"The Girl from Ipanema" didn't just break through; it became a smash hit, which led Brazil to treasure the original.

That, Anitta says, is why she decided to set "Girl from Rio" to English lyrics. In an interview from Miami, she said that garnering a seal of approval abroad helps Brazilians value their own music.

"My challenge right now is to try to make people outside Brazil get interested in Brazilian music and culture again the way it was back in those Girl-from-Ipanema times," she says. "I think it's necessary for people outside Brazil to embrace Brazilian music, funk music and whatever we do, for Brazilian people themselves to think we have a good thing here in our hands."

By scrubbing "Ipanema" from the lyrics, Anitta already succeeded where Gimbel failed. She secured the blessing of the artists' families, who reviewed her version before granting approval. Instead, she gives a shout out to her home hood, Honorio Gurgel. It hardly rolls off the tongue, but it sure doesn't sound like toothpaste.

Four members of the Jobim and de Moraes families told The Associated Press that

they appreciated Anitta's spin on the classic. Georgiana de Moraes said her late father was ahead of his time, always experimenting with younger partners. She said he would have liked it, too.

Before the song's April 30 release, a photo of Anitta posing in front of the bus from the music video went viral, and thousands of Brazilians photoshopped themselves in her place. According to Lucas Brêda, a music critic at newspaper Folha de S.Paulo, that showed they felt seen and represented.

Her video also resonated, Brêda says. It racked up 24 million views on YouTube. But he says the song is more akin to contemporary American pop than anything Brazilian-born. Anitta also released a remix with rapper DaBaby on May 21. It's a bit of history that repeats Bossa Nova's Americanization.

"In the export of Bossa Nova, it became more distant from samba and closer to jazz," Brêda says. "Anitta is doing that consciously, has no shame in doing that."

She has performed her song on the Today Show and Jimmy Kimmel Live, providing Americans a new vision of Rio women by supplanting the original's inspiration, a 17-year-old named Helô. De Moraes described her in a 1965 magazine:

"A golden girl, mixture of flower and mermaid, full of light and grace, but the sight of whom is sad, because she carries with her, on her way to the sea, the feeling of youth passing by, of beauty that isn't just ours. It is a gift from life in its beautiful melancholy of constant ebb and flow."

Today, that woman, the original muse for "The Girl from Ipanema," is 75 and among the small percentage of Brazilians fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Her name is Helô Pinheiro. She, too, enjoys the bounce of Anitta's beat in the new version of the tune that changed her life, and recalled how de Moraes viewed her back then. □

French Open: No. 1 Barty retires, Djokovic & Federer advance

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN and JEROME PUGMIRE

PARIS (AP) — Bothered by a painful hip, top-ranked Ash Barty retired Thursday from her second-round match at the French Open, leaving the clay-court Grand Slam tournament without its top two women's seeds and any of the top three women in the rankings.

The 2019 champion trailed 6-1, 2-2 when she signaled that she couldn't continue against Polish opponent Magda Linette on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I was battling the pain, and it just became too severe, and like I said, was becoming unsafe," Barty said of the injury that had flared up during training before the tournament.

Defending champion Iga Swiatek breezed through to the third round, beating Rebecca Peterson 6-1, 6-1 on Court Simonne-Mathieu. The No. 8-seeded Pole next faces No. 30 Anett Kontaveit.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, both former champions, advanced to the men's third round.

Federer beat Marin Cilic 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 for his ninth win in 10 meetings against the big-serving Croat and fifth in majors.

"I think I played a really good match, I surprised myself a bit. I didn't think I could play at this level for 2 ½ hours against Marin," Federer said. "I still think the level was high, I tried everything and I had some very good moments, notably in the tiebreak. I finished by serving really well. It shows I have something in reserve, I have some energy left and that's really good for my confidence."

The eighth-seeded Federer next faces unseeded Dominik Koepfer, who beat No. 30 Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Fritz left the court in a wheelchair after appearing to hurt his knee.

Federer looked sharp, and could even afford to get a little distracted, arguing with chair umpire Emmanuel Joseph after being given a time warning for slow play during the second set



Australia's Ashleigh Barty waves goodbye as she retires with an injury as she was playing against Poland's Magda Linette during their second round match on day 5, of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, France, Thursday, June 3, 2021.

on Court Philippe Chatrier. Federer even asked Cilic for his opinion.

"Marin, am I playing too slow?" he asked.

Cilic suggested he was. But after winning in the first round on Monday, Federer spoke about the strange feeling of having to handle his own towel, because of coronavirus rules, and how it upset his rhythm. He argued the point to Emmanuel, and to Cilic.

"I understand the rule," Federer protested to Cilic. "(But) I'm going from one corner to the next trying to get my towel. I'm not doing it on purpose."

Federer, whose 40th birthday is Aug. 8, hadn't appeared on the Grand Slam stage since Jan. 30, 2020, when he lost to Djokovic in the Australian Open semifinals.

"I guess I'm just new to the new tour," Federer said with a laugh in his post-match news conference.

He could meet Djokovic here, since they are in the same side of the draw along with defending

champion Rafael Nadal — who is level all time on 20 major titles with Federer.

Djokovic made brief work of beating clay-court specialist Pablo Cuevas 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, saving eight of the nine break points he faced. The 18-time Grand Slam champion next plays unseeded Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis.

Nadal was set to play during the night session on his 35th birthday, with fans having to leave the grounds by 9 p.m. because of coronavirus rules.

The 13-time champion was facing Richard Gasquet, having a 16-0 career record against the Frenchman.

Elsewhere, 18-year-old qualifier Carlos Alcaraz of Spain beat No. 28 Nikoloz

Basilashvili 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. Alcaraz became the youngest man to reach the third round at Roland Garros since 1992 and youngest to make a Grand Slam third round since Nadal at Australian Open in 2004. Nadal also reached the Wimbledon third round in 2003.

This is only the third time at any Grand Slam tournament in the professional era, which began in 1968, that the top two women's seeds are gone before the third round. It also happened at the French Open in 2014 (No. 1 Serena Williams and No. 2 Li Na) and the U.S. Open in 2018 (No. 1 Simona Halep and No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki).

In addition to Barty's departure, No. 2 Naomi Osaka withdrew after the first

round, saying she is going to take a break from competition for mental health reasons. The third-ranked Halep pulled out before the tournament because of a leg injury.

In the buildup to this year's French Open, Barty played 13 matches on clay and won 11. She posted a record of 27-5 and won three singles titles before Roland Garros. But she was forced to retire in the quarterfinals in Rome in May because of an injury to her right arm. She said that injury had healed and did not hamper her in Paris.

"It's heartbreaking," Barty said. "We have had such a brilliant clay-court season." The Australian started the match with her left thigh bandaged and it was immediately clear she could not move properly. Too slow to chase her opponent's shots, she struggled in long rallies and with her first serve.

Barty called for a medical timeout at the end of the opening set, then briefly left the court for treatment. She stopped after Linette hit an ace. Barty then walked to the net to shake the 45th-ranked player's hand.

She decided not to defend her title last year because of the coronavirus pandemic, choosing instead to remain home in Australia.

After ending a four-match losing streak on clay in the previous round, 2020 runner-up Sofia Kenin advanced to the third round with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Hailey Baptiste.

The 2020 Australian Open champion from the United States underwent an emergency appendectomy in Melbourne in February and her record was 7-8 entering the clay-court Grand Slam. Fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina beat Ann Li of the United States 6-0, 6-4. □

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Duke's Krzyzewski eager for a final run with the Blue Devils

By **AARON BEARD**

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Mike Krzyzewski had pondered for years when it would be the right time to leave a Hall of Fame coaching career that he has long loved. Now Krzyzewski and the Blue Devils have committed to a plan: coach a final season in a farewell tour of sorts for one of the college basketball's icons, then hand off to a trusted successor. And he's eager for that chance, particularly after a bumpy season. "There's nothing sad about this," the 74-year-old Krzyzewski said Thursday. "This is not sad. I'm happy. I'm excited."

The winningest coach in the history of Division I college basketball announced Wednesday that next season will be his last with the Blue Devils program he has built into one of college basketball's bluebloods. Thursday's news conference was held at the Blue Devils' famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium — on the court bearing Krzyzewski's name, no less. "I'm a lucky guy," Krzyzewski said. "And we're going to go for it as much as possible, as much as we can this year, and we're going to



Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski speaks during an NCAA college basketball news conference Thursday, June 3, 2021, at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C.

Associated Press

try to return this place into being what it's supposed to be. And then we'll be able to walk away to another part of what we're doing." Krzyzewski said he has no health concerns and wasn't leaving in reaction to the difficulties of playing last year amid the COVID-19 pandemic or the changing landscape of college basketball. Rather, he described the decision as one that has come after years of contemplation

and a desire to spend time with family and "live a little bit through them" when discussing his grandchildren. "The reason we're doing this is because (wife) Mickie and I have decided the journey's going to be over in a year," Krzyzewski said. "And we're going to go after it as hard as we possibly can. And then we'll be a part of Duke's continuing journey ... for as long as we're around, for as long as we're around."

The school has named former Duke player and associate head coach Jon Scheyer as Krzyzewski's successor for the 2022-23 season, with Scheyer's news conference scheduled for Friday.

In the meantime, there's the drive to help Duke regroup after missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995, which came while playing with no "Cameron crazies" fans amid COVID-19 protocols.

In a social media post Wednesday night, the program billed Krzyzewski's final season as "The Last Ride" as the Blue Devils add one of the nation's top recruiting classes. The coach — with five national championships in 41 seasons with the Blue Devils and 1,170 career wins going back to his time at Army — knows it will add a bit of extra juice to games next season, too. "Once they throw the ball up, they want to beat us even more because it's the last time, right?" Krzyzewski said. "Come on, as a competitor, I know that." Swingman Wendell Moore Jr. said the players know it, too.

"We just want to make this season as great as possible for not only us but for him — and really just to give him one last thing to go out with on top," Moore said. "And hopefully we can get that for him."

Krzyzewski got emotional multiple times when talking about his career, including about the late athletic director Tom Butters — who hired an unknown Krzyzewski in March 1980 and stuck with him after consecutive 17-loss seasons early in his tenure. □

Name game: Final list set of possible successor to Indians



Cleveland Indians' Amed Rosario celebrates after hitting a solo home run in the first inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Chicago White Sox, Monday, May 31, 2021, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Like expecting parents, the Cleveland Indians are trying to settle on a name. It's proving to be a tedious, testing process. The team said Thursday it now has a final list from an

initial pool of nearly 1,200 entries. It is vetting the possible team names for legal purposes after months of research and discussions with fans.

In December, the Indians said they were changing

their name for the first time since 1915. The decision came during a national movement to remove and replace prejudicial names and symbols, and after a strong push from Native American groups who deemed the existing name racist.

The team began meeting with groups of fans in February. Based on those discussions and feedback from meetings with community leaders, local influencers and staff members, the team concluded the new name needed to connect with the city, preserve the team's history and unite the community. The initial list consisted of 1,198 names. It's not known how many names are being given final consider-

ation for what will be the club's new identity.

Owner Paul Dolan told The Associated Press in December the new name will not have any Native American themes or connotations.

"We've engaged our fans and community on many aspects of our team name process," said Curtis Damburg, the team's vice president of communications and community impact. "We felt it was important to share our research journey and what we've learned so far." The forthcoming name change has sparked lively debate among Cleveland fans, some wanting the club to remain the Indians. Among the most popular names pushed by fans on social media are the

Spiders, Guardians and Avengers.

Dating to 1865, Cleveland's baseball team has previously been called the Spiders, Blues and Forest City.

Once the Indians have selected their final name choices, they'll draft options for logos, word marks and other brand elements. The club will also work with Major League Baseball to ensure legal viabilities.

The name change will complete a rebranding by the Indians, who removed their contentious Chief Wahoo logo from their game jerseys and caps several years ago. The team, however, continues to sell merchandise featuring the grinning, cartoonish mascot. □